

HAMPTON, PHOEBUS AND OLD POINT—Continued.

ST. PETERSBURG.

The Terrors of Its Climate in the Spring and Autumn.

"There is something repulsive in the climate of St. Petersburg in the early spring and autumn," says a writer, "when the thermometer often falls 30 degrees in a few hours, when the roads are ankle deep in snow or mud, when the winds blow raw and cold from every quarter of the compass and the quick moving droskies shower the abominations of the roads impartially upon noble and peasant. It is no consolation to the visitor to know that the Neva is sealed by ice early in November or late in October. Long indeed before the frost king has stalked down to the latitude of St. Petersburg the lordly river is completely blocked. Great ice sheets from stormy Ladoga float down the current. They crash against the mighty buttresses of the bridges, cling to the banks and gradually accumulate until the whole length of the river, which unites the greatest lake in Europe with the gulf of Finland, is completely choked. The ice is heaved higgledy piggledy at every conceivable angle. It is a strange sight, this broad stretch of water, impassable and icebound while the temperature of the surrounding country is often many degrees above freezing point."

THE HARDEST THING TO GET IN A COUNTRY HOTEL.

"The hardest thing to get in a country hotel," said the traveling man, "is decent fruit. Meat and vegetables are generally pretty good, but at the best hotels in the small towns it is practically impossible to get good melons, peaches or grapes."

"The other morning I was in the leading hotel of a flourishing up state town. The breakfast bill of fare read as usual, 'Fruit in season.' The season of cantaloupes and other good things was at its height, but what do you suppose they had? Prunes! Oh, the perennial prune—always in season, and the crop is never a failure!"—New York Press.

THE POOR MOON.

Natives in Bulawayo, South Africa, have a curious belief concerning the moon. They say that he has two wives, one of whom treats him well and the other badly. During the first quarter he goes over the hills to the Zambesi and lives with his first wife, whom they call Keep the Door Open. She feeds him so well that he gets fat and full and round. But on his way back he stays at the hut of the second wife—shut the Door Tight—who starves and ill treats him, so it is a very thin and woebegone moon that finally returns to start his travels afresh.

DEAD SEA FRUIT.

"Did you have a good time at the wedding?"
"Not very," replied Miss Passar. "I got quite interested in a young man who seemed to have just lovely manners, and really—but, oh, pshaw, what's the use talking about it! After it was all over I learned that he was a detective who had been hired to watch the presents."—Chicago Record-Herald.

BUSY.

Hyker—I hear you have left the bank in which you were formerly employed.
Tyker—Yes; three weeks ago. I'm in business for myself. Hyker—So! What are you doing? Tyker—Looking for another job.—Chicago News.

KEEPING HIM STRAIGHT.

After this the United States Steel Corporation should insist that its president's pay envelope be sent straight home to his wife.—Chicago Daily News.

He—Do you think blondes have more admirers than brunettes?

She—I don't know. You might ask Miss Turner. She has had experiences in both capacities.—New Yorker.

CHINESE PHILOSOPHY.

Some of the Clever Epigrams of the Flowery Kingdom.

Their proverbial philosophy shows that the Chinese are very thoughtful. Here are a few specimens: "The best and strongest man in the world finds that he cannot escape the two words 'No continuance.'" "Happiness consists in a medium station." "When you are sitting quietly and alone, think of your faults; when conversing with others, do not talk of the faults of others." "Correct yourself on the same principle that you correct others, and excuse others on the same principle that you excuse yourself." "He who requires much from himself and little from others will keep himself from being the object of resentment." "He who pursues a stag regards not hares." "A gem cannot be polished without friction or a man perfected without adversity." "The gods cannot help a man who loses opportunities."

The Chinese call a harmless blusterer "a paper tiger," and compare a man overestimating himself to a rat falling into a scale and weighing itself. Overdoing a thing is a hunchback making a bow.

You have only to watch their story and fortune tellers in the streets to see that the Chinese are natural orators. You can see that by their gestures, even if you do not understand what they say. They use very apt illustrations.—From "John Chinaman at Home," by E. J. Hardy.

MEMORY OF TURTLES.

Lay Their Eggs Almost in the Same Place Year after Year.

During the summer months from May to August the big sea turtles lay their eggs on the beach. They come possibly hundreds of miles, and if undisturbed will land within a few yards of the same place year after year. They crawl up the beach in the night and make their nest in the sand just above high water mark. I have watched them from behind a sandhill but a few feet away.

They dig the hole with their hind flippers, and after covering it over, first filling it with eggs, they will go a few feet and make another place, I always thought to be blind, for one looks just like the other. They lay each month, usually during the high tides of that month, beginning in May and ending in August, from 20 to 155 eggs.

During the summer I found and brought into camp 2,755 eggs. I put some in the sand near our camp, and in twenty-seven days the top eggs hatched, the rest in three days more. The little turtles would dig out, raise their little heads and sniff the air a moment, then start for the river, 300 yards away. It was always a mystery to me how a turtle could find the same place on the shore when a short distance out at sea it all looks alike—just sandy ridges, with scrub palmetto and coarse grass.—Forest and Stream.

Total Value of Seats on Exchange.

In 1823 a Stock exchange seat cost \$25, nowadays these seats bring \$95,000.

In 1823 the seats held numbered 500; average cost, each \$25
Initiation fee,\$10.....\$17,500
1863—Seats cost, each..... 4,500
1866—Seats cost, each..... 10,000
1879—Seats cost, each..... 20,000
1890—Seats cost, each..... 35,000
1901—Seats cost, each..... 50,000
1902—Seats cost, each..... 80,000
1903—Seats cost, each..... 88,000
1905—Seats, latest value..... 95,000
If the average value of a Stock Exchange seat is \$95,000, the 1,100 seats on the present Exchange aggregate in value \$111,000,000.—New York American.

A man who lives in the suburbs and brags how much he saves on his rent always forgets to figure in the commutation and the extra bills.

AT THE ARMY Y. M. C. A.

Interesting Program Arranged to Usher in New Year's Work.

NEW SECRETARY ARRIVES TODAY

Reception to Introduce Mr. Pierce to

Members of the Garrison—Outlook is Most Encouraging for Committee of Management.

In preparation for the new fiscal year of the army Y. M. C. A. at Fortress Monroe which begins on the first day of the year, a special program has been arranged for three days beginning tonight. An excellent entertainment will be given at 7:30 p. m. by Joseph Lorrain, of New York City, who is known as the manufacturer of broad smiles. His program affords an evening of fun, including comic imitations, dialect songs with banjo accompaniment, humorous selections, solos on the hand bells, ocarina, banjo, xylophone, and whistling. The entertainment is furnished by the committee of management as a holiday feature for the members of the associations and their soldier friends.

Mr. William B. Miller, of New York City, the International Army and Navy Y. M. C. A. Secretary, arrives today by the Cape Charles boat. He is to speak at the regular men's meeting tomorrow afternoon in the Association hall. A large attendance is expected for special stress has been laid on this meeting as Mr. Miller is a very strong speaker for men. The musical program consists of some excellent talent. Miss Mar Hall, soprano, of Norfolk, will render several solos and Mr. George F. Nottingham, violinist, will assist in the general song service.

On Monday from 3 to 5 p. m. the association has a New Year's reception for the men of the post. The reception, as well as all the other features of the building, such as the bowling alleys, pool room, and gymnasium, will be open for all the soldiers, whether members or not. Refreshments will be served during the hours of the reception.

This reception is for the purpose of introducing the new secretary, Mr. P. Clifford Pierce, to all the men of the garrison. The reception committee to welcome Mr. Pierce consists of the following men:

Sergeant Shipley, Thirty-fifth Company; Sergeant Thompson, Hospital Corps; Sergeant Alderson, Fifth Eighth Corps; Sergeant Richards, 1st Corps; Sergeant Thompson, G. S. Corps; Sergeant La Font, G. S. Corps; Sergeant Sims, Thirty-fifth Company; Corporal Cordial, Fifty eighth Company; Corporal Morrow, Eighteenth Company; Corporal Tinogies, Seventy-third Company; Corporal Underwood, G. S.; Corporal Mabry, S. C.; Private E. A. Prince, Forty-first Company; E. A. Jones, Sixty-ninth Company; Private H. Hess, Sixty ninth Company; Private R. C. Vickers, S. C. Company; Private J. Kelly, Fifty-eighth Company; Private A. I. Johnson, Sixty-ninth Company; Private J. O'Shea, Fifty-eighth Company; Private Simmons, Thirtieth Company; Private T. J. Williamson, Sixty-ninth Company; Musician W. E. Plink, Fifty-eighth Company.

Mr. Pierce who begins his duties as secretary of the Fortress Monroe Y. M. C. A. comes from the City Y. M. C. A. of Washington where he has had five years of excellent training. While there he has acted as assistant secretary in the various departments of that association, his last position being membership secretary. The association is fortunate in securing Mr. Pierce for he has the qualities in him to keep the association work in first place before the men of the post.

The outlook for the new year is extremely bright and the committee of management looks forward to a year of great success.

Mr. Mahlon G. Baily, whose resignation takes effect the first of the year, left yesterday for Columbus Ohio, where he has been called as one of the secretaries of the city Y. M. C. A.

Mr. R. E. Hopkins who has been assistant secretary for the past eleven months has sent in his resignation to take effect on February the first.

Since Mr. Baily's absence because of sickness, Mr. Edgar Mac Naughton of the Naval Y. M. C. A. of Norfolk has been acting as tempo-

rary secretary. He will return to Norfolk and resume his work there about the tenth of next month.

HOLLY PARTY

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Simpkins on Curry St., was the scene of mirth and merriment on last Wednesday afternoon, the event being a "Holly Party" given by Louise and Harry Simpkins, their guest being numerous little tots of the neighborhood. Games of various kinds were indulged in and light refreshments of the daintiest kind was served to all. The color scheme was of red, and this with the glow on the babies cheeks made it truly the Christmas time.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

The prudent man opens his eyes and shuts his mouth.

Treat every one as though you expected him to some day be your enemy.

If there is a dog in the manger throw him out. He doesn't belong there.

Are you as active in paying a bill you owe as you are in collecting a bill due you?

If it were not for the fact that most people ask too much indemnity there wouldn't be much use for courts.

You can get up a quarrel, but will you be any better off after you have quarreled so fiercely that peace will be agreeable?

It is a good plan for a woman to occasionally let her husband have his way without giving him a look that will take the pleasant taste out.—Atchafson Globe.

Curiosities About Fish Scales.

The thin, silvery coating of fish scales derives its luster from many minute crystals of lime, mixed with a peculiar substance called "guanine." This coating of silver crystals is very easily rubbed off the scales, and in the case of a European species of carp known as the "bleak" the crystals are so numerous that a metallic pigment, commercially known as "argentine," is made from them. The large globular glass beads, known as "German" or "Roman" pearls, are coated on the inside with this substance. In some species of fish with lustrous scales the silvery lining is found on the inside of the body. A well known example of this is seen in the common smelt.

THE MARINE ENGINEER.

Startling Example Showing the Danger of His Calling.

Of all causes of boiler deterioration, says H. P. Watson in the Engineering Magazine, by far the most numerous are those arising from the presence of scale and its twin sister, incrustation; but broken braces can give an engineer a very bad quarter of an hour. A steamer plying on the great lakes many years ago carried very high steam for those days—fifty pounds per square inch on a very large and light shell. The engineer on watch was down in the fire room looking around when a loud bang came from one of the boilers. Instantly divining the cause, he looked questioningly at the head watch-tender, who replied, "Be jabbers, I hope that ain't next door neighbor to the one that let go on the other watch."

That startled the engineer, for he had not been told of the other broken brace. He at once stopped the blowers, opened the doors, shut the stop valve between boilers and put on the feed pumps as rapidly as they could go as to reduce pressure. The deck department was notified that it would be necessary to stop, and they hauled to one side of the channel and waited for the coming up of another boat in the same line passed a few miles back. The passengers (there were 1,000 on board) and mails were transferred, and the boat returned with the injured boiler out of business.

Upon examination the next day it was found that three braces had given way at or near one another, two letting go simultaneously apparently, and that the precautions taken against a disaster (which would have been terrible if it had occurred) were none too soon. This was merely an episode within the everyday duty of an engineer and carries its own warning.

Jumble of Languages.

There are towns in Hungary, and small towns, too, where from seven to ten idioms are constantly being used. On the Galician frontier there is in a lovely valley the old town of Eperjes. The number of its inhabitants do not exceed 12,000. To this day the good people of Eperjes are in the habit of talking or being talked to in six different languages and several dialects. An ordinary household will include a Slovac manservant, a Hungarian coachman, a German cook and a Polish chambermaid. What is still more remarkable, each grade of society will tenaciously cling to its own language for centuries.

The Bishop and the Senator.

A visiting bishop in Washington was arguing with a senator on the desirability of attending church. At last he put the question squarely, "What is your personal reason for not attending?"

The senator smiled in a no-offense-intended way as he replied, "The fact is, one finds so many hypocrites there."

Returning the smile, the bishop said: "Don't let that keep you away, senator. There's always room for one more."—Philadelphia Post.

Crockett's Shoes

EVERYTHING in footwear for which a man's heart could wish. Conducive to the happiness of his feet and his pocket book; cheap enough for the man who has to consider the price and good enough for the man who wants the best regardless of the money. This is the standard of our shoes for men, women & children.

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A lot of fine hats, latest styles, many different colors and styles to select from. Big bargains next week in fine Millinery. \$5.00 and \$6.00 hats for \$2.50 and \$3.00. Untrimmed shapes for 25c up to \$2.50.

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President Beams, Loeb Happy.

William Loeb, secretary to President Roosevelt, has adopted the views of the chief on race suicide. The stork visited the home of the secretary on Monday, bringing a fine boy as a Christmas gift. This is the first child born to the couple.

President Roosevelt was the first person notified of the arrival. A telephone message was sent to the executive offices, and a messenger went to the White House to convey the news to the President. Mr. Roosevelt had gone out riding, but he was given the news the moment he returned. He beamed and expressed his pleasure.—Washington Dispatch.

Gold Medal for John Mitchell's Book.

President John Mitchell of the United Mine Workers has heard that his book on "Organized Labor" has taken a gold medal in the department of social economy at the International Exposition at Liege, Belgium. The book deals with the labor conditions of this country, and has been translated into German and French.—Wilkesbarre, Pa. Dispatch.

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500 to 1,000 at 6 per cent.

NOTICE

To Property Holders

On Monday, January 1st, 1906, at 12 o'clock m., I shall sell at public auction, in front of the court house in Hampton, Virginia, all real estate in the Elizabeth City county, Virginia, on which the state and county taxes for the year 1905 have not at that time been paid. The real estate to be sold has been advertised by hand bills for the past two months.

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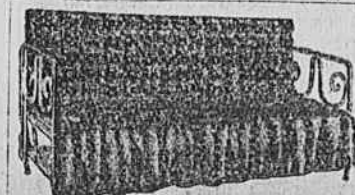
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